

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 04371 190818Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 /073 W
-----111119 190850Z /20

R 190703Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4907
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ET PGOV LE
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN GOVT RECEIVES VISITS FROM LEBANESE COMMUNISTS

1. ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (EPMG)
RECEIVED TWO DELS FROM LEBANESE COMMUNISTS DURING
FIRST HALF JULY. FIRST DEL WAS FROM COMMUNIST
ORGANIZATION ACTION OF LEBANON, LED BY FAWAZ TRABULSI
WHO IS LISTED IN PRESS ACCOUNTS POLITBUREAU MEMBER AND
CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY. THIS DEL WAS MET
BY ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY ACTION COMMITTEE
(PMAC) MEMBER IN CHARGE OF MILITARY POLITICAL EDUCATION,
MSGT LEGESSE ASFAW, WHO SERVED AS OFFICIAL HOST FOR BOTH
DELS, AND AMBASSADOR FROM PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN (PDRY). TRABULSI LATER HAD TWO-HOUR
MEETING WITH PMAC VICE CHAIRMAN, ATNAFU ABATE. IN NUM-
BER OF SPEECHES, TRABULSI STATED "FASCIST ELEMENT IN
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LEBANON BACKED BY SADAT, NIMEIRI, ARAB REACTION, U.S.
IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM...FASCISTS ALSO SUPPORTED BY
SYRIAN ARMY WHICH UNDER COMMAND OF SAUDI ARABIA."
TRABULSI CLAIMED ARAB "PROGRESSIVES" VIEW TURNING OF
RED SEA INTO ARAB LAKE EQUIVALENT OF TURNING IT INTO
AMERICAN LAKE. TRABULSI AND COMPANY ARRIVED 1 JULY
AND DEPARTED FIVE DAYS LATER.

2. ON 12 JULY A TWO-MAN DEL FROM LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY ARRIVED, CONSISTING OF DEPUTY GENERAL-SECRETARY NADIM ABDO SAMAD AD POLITBUREAU MEMBER GEORGE BATTAL. DURING VISIT, WHICH INCLUDED CALL ON PMAC MEMBER IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MAJ. BERHANU BAYEH, SAMAD CLAIMED LEBANESE COMMUNISTS HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT MEMBERS AND MEMBERS OF EPRP SEEKING ASSISTANCE, BUT HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN. AGAIN STRESSING DISTINCTION BETWEEN REACTIONARY ARABS' POLICY TOWARD EPMG AND SOLIDARITY OF "PROGRESSIVE" ARABS, SAMAD NOTED THAT ETHIOPIA AND LEBANON ARE WAGING "COMMON STRUGGLE."

3. COMMENT: WE FOUND HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION AND PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN TWO LEBANESE COMMUNIST DELS WORTHY OF NOTE. BUT DELS WERE RECEIVED WITH TRAPPINGS OF GOVT-TO-GOVT VISIT. BOTH VISITS PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO PROCLAIM ETHIOPIAN SOLIDARITY WITH PROGRESSIVE-COMMUNIST MOVEMENTS. MORE IMPORTANT, PERHAPS, WAS FACT THAT DEL FROM ARAB WORLD, NO MATTER HOW UNOFFICIAL OR DISCREDITED ITS CONSTITUENCY, WAS WILLING TO MAKE PROPER NOISES OF SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION AND CONDEMNATION OF IMPERIALIST AND REACTIONARY PLOTS. NOT CLEAR WHY PDRY AMBASSADOR WAS PRESENT TO GREET AND SEE OFF FIRST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEBANESE DEL, UNLESS DEL MAY HAVE STOPPED IN PDRY EN ROUTE. OTHER THAN QUESTIONABLE PROPAGANDA BENEFITS, THERE NO INDICATION HERE THAT EITHER VISIT ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING SUBSTANTIVE. EMBASSY HERE UNABLE DETERMINE IF LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION ACTION OF LEBANON SAME ENTITY. TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS04371
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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